



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Goddard et al. Docket No.: 39780-2730P1C25
Serial No.: 09/993,604 Group Art Unit: 1647
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS: RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 for the above identified application. A Notice of Appeal was filed in this case on December 22, 2004; therefore this response is timely filed and is accompanied with a Petition for Extension of time for five months with necessary fees. Attached is a Declaration by Audrey Goddard, Ph.D. Entry of this amendment and consideration of the following arguments is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.